



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEST NILE VIRUS WEEKLY UPDATE Virus Continues to Spread Throughout San Diego County

County Vector Control officials announced today that another dead crow found in the Fallbrook area tested positive for West Nile virus. This is the fourth bird to test positive this year.

To date, eight California counties are reporting cases of West Nile virus. There have been no human cases of WNV reported in California this year.

Prevent Mosquito Breeding: Backyard water sources are ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Residents should dump or remove anything that can hold water, such as potted plants and saucers, rain gutters, buckets, trashcans, children's toys, old spare tires and wheelbarrows. Mosquito fish, which are available for free at 13 locations around the County, may be used to control mosquito breeding in backyard water sources such as unused swimming pools, ponds, fountains and horse troughs.

Protect Yourself from Mosquito Bites: You can protect yourself from the virus by staying inside when mosquitoes are most active and by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors, especially at dawn or dusk. Use insect repellents containing DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus when you are outdoors. Keep screens on doors and windows and make sure the screens are in good condition.

Report Mosquito Breeding and Dead Birds: Vector Control staff continues to pick up and test dead crows, ravens, jays, hawks, and owls that are reported. Call Vector Control for instructions on how to deal with the bird. Dead birds do not need to be reported if: they have been dead more than 24 hours; have been hit by a car, shot, or killed by animals; or are covered with ants or flies; have a foul odor; or if their bodies are not intact.

To report dead birds, mosquito breeding areas, inoperative swimming pools, or standing water, please call County Vector Control at 858-694-2888. For more information about the West Nile virus, call the County's West Nile virus information line at 888-551-INFO (4636) or visit the County's West Nile virus Web site at www.SDFightTheBite.com.

Number of dead birds for the week: 1

Seasonal total to date: 4

Species: American Crow

Location: Fallbrook

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